



Bryan Douglas, Svc Manager

Honorable Joe Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Henry Brown
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Senator Lindsey Graham
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Congressman Wilson and Congressman Brown:

This letter is in support of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association's request for FY 2010 Appropriations for the US Army Corps of Engineers in South Carolina. According to the Corps, the Charleston District needs \$5 million to maintain the AIWW from Little River to Port Royal

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) is a major commercial water highway used by over 24,000 commercial vessels annually from Florida to Virginia. Commercial vessels such as towing companies depend on the AIWW as a transportation route to transport more than 160,000 tons of fuel oil, fabricated metal, machinery, wood products and other goods. Annual maintenance is absolutely critical if this waterway is to remain open as a commercial link between Florida and Virginia.

Additionally, the AIWW is crucial to generating tens of millions of dollars in revenue for local business', communities, cities, and counties along the waterway through recreational boating. Millions of dollars are generated through Marina storage, Fuel sales, Boat and Boating accessory sales, Recreational (and Commercial) fishing, and even tourism.

The waterway adds millions of dollars of value to homes and land along the water that generates greater income through home sales and even greater tax revenue to the county.

With this said, the AIWW reaches deeper than just the revenue. It touches lives. Boating helps to bring families closer. Boating affords the people of this state an opportunity to get away from the turmoil of everyday life and enjoy living. Boating has become a real tradition and culture that must be preserved. Through proper maintenance of the waterway, this culture will be passed down to the generations to come.

We understand that you will be faced with many difficult decisions as the Appropriations process moves forward. We appreciate the support you have given the Waterway in the past and encourage you to keep the AIWW high on your list of priorities for FY 10.

Sincerely,

Bryan Douglas
Service Manager
MarineMax, Inc
724 Hwy 17
Little River, SC 29566 843-281-9755